

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AF-06 ARA-10

EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 ACDA-10 /125 W

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P R 180128Z DEC 75

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5110

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS USUN 6890

E.O. 11652 N/AC

TAGS: PFOR, UN,AO,SF,US,UR,CU

SUBJECT: MPLA PRESS CONFERENCE AT UN, DECEMBER 17

1. ELISIO DE FIGUEREDO, CALLING HIMSELF PERM REP OF MPLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AND CLAIMING PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS, GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE AT UN, DECEMBER 17. IN OPENING STATEMENT, HE CONDEMNED SOUTH AFRICAN "INVASION" OF ANGOLA AND CALLED ON ALL "FRIENDLY COUNTRIES" TO DEMAND WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN AND ZAIREAN TROOPS. DE FIGUEIREDO SAID THAT UNITED STATES AND MERCENARIES ALSO ARE WORKING ON SIDE OF FNLA AND UNITA. MPLA REPRESENTS MAJORITY OF ANGOLANS, IS NON-ALIGNED AND INDEPENDENT, AND EXPECTS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL NATIONS AS LONG AS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE ARE RESPECTED.

2. DURING QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD, DE FIGUEIREDO CLAIMED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH 37-40 COUNTRIES. USSR AND CUBA ARE SIMPLY IN ANGOLA "LIKE MANY OTHER VOLUNTEERS ARE". SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SWEDEN, NORWAY AND DENMARK, HAVE HELPED MPLA FOR 14 YEARS.

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3. MPLA, HE CONTINUED, WILL REVEAL 25-50 CAPTURED SOUTH

AFRICAN TROOPS AS WELL AS PORTUGUESE TO PRESS IN LUANDA IN NEXT FEW DAYS. HE ESTIMATES THERE ARE ABOUT 11,200 ZAIREAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA, 4,000 SOUTH AFRICAN REGULARS, AND 2,500 OTHERS IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA.

4. ASKED BY REPRESENTATIVE OF GDR NEWS SERVICE WHAT HE THOUGHT ABOUT ALL THE "NOISE" AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN HAD MADE AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION, AND CIA SUPPORT IN ANGOLA, DE FIGUEREDO REPLIED THAT CIA INVOLVEMENT IS MUCH MORE THAN \$150 MILLION TO FNLA AND UNITA, THROUGH ZAIRE. THERE ARE AMERICAN ADVISERS, HE SAID, IN ZAIRE, BUT NOT IN ANGOLA AT THE PRESENT MOMENT: "WE HAVE NOT CAPTURED ANY US MILITARY MEN", ALTHOUGH AMERICAN MERCENARIES ARE FIGHTING WITH SOUTH AFRICANS, UNITA, AND FNLA. ASKED HOW MANY US MILITARY MIGHT BE IN ZAIRE, DE FIGUEREDO SAID TO ASK AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN. CHINA HAS GIVEN SOME HELP IN TRAINING AND GATHERING OF ARMS FOR FNLA/UNITA, BUT DE FIGUEIREDO DOESN'T KNOW IF CHINA IS STILL THERE OR NOT.

5. MPLA WOULD ENDORSE A PLEA BY SYG WALDHEIM FOR AN EMBARGO ON FOREIGN ARMS AND WITHDRAWAL OF ALL TROOPS, INCLUDING CUBAN AND SOVIET. HE WISHED MPLA HAD THE 3,000 TO 4,000 CUBAN MILITARY RUMORED BUT MOST OF CUBANS ARE ONLY IN TRAINING CAPACITY.

6. CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING TO PROTEST SOUTH AFRICAN ACTION, HE SAID MPLA HOPES ALL NATIONS WOULD LOOK FAVORABLY ON SUCH A MORE IF IT BECAME NECESSARY. ANGOLA HAS NOT BUT WILL APPLY FOR UN MEMBERSHIP "IN THE NEAR FUTURE". MPLA NOW HOLDS MORE THAN ONE-HALF ANGOLAN TERRITORY; PRIOR TO "SOUTH AFRICAN INVASION" IT HELD TWO-THIRDS. SIXTEEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE RECOGNIZED MPLA. CONCERNING CORE, DE FIGUEIREDO SAID HE HAD HEARD OF EFFORTS TO RECRUIT "PEACEKEEPING FORCE", AND THAT HE CONDEMNED SUCH ACTION. MPLA WOULD CONSIDER WHATEVER SOLUTION OAU PROPOSES, BUT FIRST, OAU MUST CONDEMN SOUTH AFRICA AND GET SOUTH AFRICA OUT OF ANGOLA. MPLA WOULD NOT SIT DOWN AND TALK TO OTHER GROUPS UNTIL ALL SOUTH AFRICANS LEAVE. IF THIS IS DONE, "THERE MIGHT BE A CLIMATE IN WHICH WE MIGHT DISCUSS OTHER MATTERS REGARDING THE DESTINY OF ANGOLA".

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7. DE FIGUEIREDO SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK THAT AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN UNDERSTOOD ANGOLAN PROBLEM. MPLA DOES NOT FEEL USSR IS COLONIZING-THAT WILL NOT BE SO. MPLA IS PUPPET OF NOBODY, WISHES GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL, INCLUDING US, "AS LONG AS IT RESPECTS IT".
MOYNIHAN

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